

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 25, 27, and 30, and please add new claim 39, as indicated in Appendix A. In Appendix A, additions to U.S. Pat. No. 5,848,745 are shown with underlining and deletions from the '745 patent are shown using strikethrough font. For the convenience of the Examiner, applicant also presents Appendix B, in which underlining and strikethrough font are used to indicate the differences between claims 25, 27, 30, and 39 as presented herein and those claims as presented in the Response filed on June 24, 2002.

Please also cancel claim 31 without prejudice.

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated July 2, 2002.

Claims 1-30, and 32-39 are currently pending in this application, and of these claims 1, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 36, and 39 are independent. Claim 30 has been amended and new claim 39 has been added to more clearly define the applicant's invention. Claim 31 has been canceled without prejudice. No new matter is added.

The office action objects to claims 25 and 27. The office action also rejects independent claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,355,879 ("Brain '879). Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 1-29 and 36-38 have been allowed.

I. Independent Claims 25 and 27

The July 2, 2002, office action indicates that claims 25 and 27 are allowable (see Office Action Summary). However, the office action also objects to claims 25 and 27. Applicants traverse this objection by filing Appendix A in which claims 25 and 27 are presented with all words underlined to indicate that these claims are new with respect to the '745 patent. As indicated in Appendix B, no amendments to claim 25 and 27 are presented herein (i.e., in substance, claims 25 and 27 are identical to those claims as presented in the response filed on June 24, 2002, and as subsequently allowed in the July 2, 2002, office action).